

NOT AMUSED

Curly
sat by himself way in back of the conference room
with a 3-day growth of beard and a grimey unwashed face
and a month's worth of being without his wife who
had left him,
glaring at the manager
who had just given his usual talk to the machinists about
how he wanted the machinists to tell him what they thought
was wrong with the machine shop so that he
could correct it,
and when the manager asked if there were any suggestions
Curly raised his hand and said, "You know,
this is just the same old SHIT, you get up there and say
you're gonna do something, how we're gonna get the tooling
and the cutters we need and stuff,
and then nothing gets DONE, it's all a bunch of
FUCKING SHIT that we've all heard a dozen times before and
it's a GODDAMN SHAME and it MAKES ME WANNA PUKE,
all this BULLSHIT about doing things that we all know
are never gonna get done, it's all the same old SHIT
and it's just gonna make us all DISGUSTED and
PISSED OFF and not give a FUCK!!"

Curly
just isn't quite his usual perpetually smiling congenial
self when he isn't getting laid.

OUT OF TOUCH

The machinists
who always had those nice
benevolent everything-couldn't-be-peachier
smiles
on their faces as they ran their machines and walked around
the building all day with peaceful twinkling eyes no
matter how obnoxious or insane things got at
Goodstone Aircraft Company,
were the ones you had to watch, the ones
who were liable
to suddenly break someone's cheek with a coldcock punch
or pull out a gun
or go insane in a bathroom stall.

It just isn't healthy
to be that far removed from reality.